

PUBLIC HEARING : APRIL 7, 1975

COLVILLE, WA.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY STATEMENT : PROPOSED WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR  
CALLAHAN MINING CORPORATION AT THE OLD VAN STONE MINE FACILITY, COLVILLE.

Background Information:

The Callahan Mining Corporation (Washington Zinc Unit) proposes to discharge accumulated groundwater and surface water seepage from the main mine ~~mine~~ to the Middle Fork of Onion Creek. This proposed discharge is expected to be less than 75,000 gallons per day in volume and to last until approximately August, 1975, on an intermittent basis. The source of this discharge is the old Van Stone Mine located approximately twenty miles northeast of Colville, Washington.

Proposed Determinations:

The proposed waste discharge permit as currently drafted requires the use of all known available and reasonable treatment prior to discharge as required by state law RCW 90.48. The federal new source performance standards for the mining industry have not yet been promulgated and are therefore nonexistent. The proposed water discharge will undergo primary sedimentation and oil skimming by means of a holding pond and controllable siphon from which discharge will occur. The holding pond facility will also promote evaporation of the stored water such that the discharge will consist of water being pumped from the mine ~~mine~~ in excess of the rate of evaporation. Therefore, this process should decrease the total amount of water to be discharged to Onion Creek and will create a no discharge operation during high evaporation periods.

The proposed permit will require the efficient operation of such treatment facilities and is designed to preclude the direct entry into Onion Creek of oily discharges resulting from spills, etc. It is proposed to place appropriate effluent limitations on the following parameters: flow, total suspended solids, total oil and pH. Such limitations are felt to be achievable through the efficient operation of the treatment facilities and are designed to protect receiving water quality. It is also proposed to amend the monitoring requirements to include monitoring zinc, lead and iron on a monthly basis during periods of discharge in addition to the other parameters listed under effluent limitations. Such discharge monitoring report forms shall be submitted to the Department of Ecology and shall be public documents open for inspection.

Onion Creek is a tributary of the Columbia River and both a designated as Class A streams. Applicable Water Quality Standards are those adopted by the Department of Ecology on June 19, 1973.

USEPA SF



1249650